



CHUCK CANTERBURY
NATIONAL PRESIDENT

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**GRAND LODGE
FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE®**

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JAMES O. PASCO, JR.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

26 April 2005

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

The Honorable Henry E. Brown, Jr.
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable John M. Spratt, Jr.
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representatives Brown and Spratt,

I am writing on behalf of the membership of the Fraternal Order of Police to address the concerns you raised in your recent letter to Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Chairman Kevin J. Martin and U.S. Attorney General Albert Gonzales regarding the proposed merger of Sprint and Nextel, as well as the FCC's order on the issue of 800 MHz interference.

The F.O.P. supports the proposed merger and the FCC's order because we believe that both will improve the quality and reliability of public safety communications systems and the safety of our officers and the public they protect. We were surprised to learn that you had raised questions about these proposals and, having read the letter outlining your objections, we respectfully disagree with your conclusions.

Both Sprint and Nextel have long-standing partnerships with the law enforcement community, and these ongoing relationships are excellent examples of what public-private partnerships can accomplish when they work together to make our nation's communities safer. Sprint and Nextel provide a wide range of services that are tailored specifically to the unique communications needs of law enforcement and both companies have worked to ensure that law enforcement officers and other first responders have cutting-edge communications for every mission. As a combined entity, Sprint-Nextel will be able to enhance the variety and quality of wireless services offered to consumer, business, and government customers--particularly law enforcement and public safety users. Together, Sprint and Nextel can provide the public safety community with wireless broadband and integrated communications services more rapidly and at less cost than either company could do alone.


There are some companies who are using the FCC's merger proceedings as a way to challenge the FCC's decision to address interference to public safety communications by reconfiguring the 800 MHz band. From the perspective of our membership, these complaints are nothing more than an effort to improve their own commercial situation, at the expense of clear, interference-free communications for first responders. The FCC's decision in this matter was reached after years of study and debate and will lead to the elimination of dangerous, life-threatening interference to public safety radios and provide much-needed additional spectrum

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for public safety communications. Indeed, the joint commitment by Sprint and Nextel to implement the FCC's 800 MHz initiative is critical to ensuring that our officers have interference-free communications. The F.O.P. strongly supports the FCC's decision on 800 MHz interference and opposes any effort to derail or delay the implementation of this order.

I hope that I have addressed the concerns you both have raised and, on behalf of the more than 318,000 members of the Fraternal Order of Police, I hope that you both will agree with us that the proposed merger of Sprint and Nextel--as well as the FCC order on the issue of 800 MHz interference--will greatly benefit public safety communications and the public interest as a whole. If we could be of any more assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me or Senior Legislative Liaison Tim Richardson in my Washington office.

Sincerely,



Chuck Canterbury
National President

cc: The Honorable George W. Bush, President of the United States
 The Honorable Alberto R. Gonzales, Attorney General of the United States
 The Honorable Lindsey O. Graham, United States Senate
 The Honorable James DeMint, United States Senate
 The Honorable Kevin J. Martin, Chairman, Federal Communications Commission
 The Honorable Kathleen Q. Abernathy, Commissioner, FCC
 The Honorable Jonathan S. Adelstein, Commissioner, FCC
 The Honorable Michael J. Copps, Commissioner, FCC